TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 7th August, 1923.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, at Eleven Thirty-five of the Clock. The President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Property Statements.

70. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the property statements submitted by the officers of Government are treated as confidential documents, so that copies thereof cannot be placed in the hands of the members of the Legislative Council?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the affirmative.

Landed Property Statements.

71. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to prepare and lay on the table a statement showing the landed property situate outside Travancore acquired by the officers of this State drawing a salary of Rs. 200 and above, either in their names or in the names of their wives and children, and also the money invested by them in banks or other concerns both in and outside Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Property owned by Mr. Van Ross.

72. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the value of the landed property and other investments

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[Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.]

which Mr. Van Ross was holding in 1095, and the value of the landed property and other investments which he is now holding?

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state what their objection is to placing the property statements of the officers before the members of this House?

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Those statements are confidential.

Property Statements.

73. Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state why they receive the property statements of all officers drawing a salary of Rs. 40 and above?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the value of the property of the Excise Commissioner during 1096, 1097 and 1098 respectively?

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) To enable the Government to know the nature and extent of the properties and the localities where they are situated.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state why they want to know the nature and extent of the property owned by an officer?

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are several reasons which it is not in the public interest to disclose.

South Indian Match Factory.

74. Mr. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): (*a*) (i) When was permission granted to the South Indian Match Factory to establish itself in Travancore and do business?

(ii) How many times and for what term in each case was the period under the agreement extended?

(iii) Will the Forest Department be able to supply soft wood for the price fixed in the agreement entered into with the firm, and if so, will it lead to any, and what loss?

(iv) Who were the Conservators of Forests who had reported to Government that the agreement to supply soft wood to the match factory would result in loss to Government and that the period of the agreement should not be extended?

(v) Will the Government be pleased to lay their reports on the table?

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